



Friday 8th July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Incident at Barrow Hedges Primary School – Friday 8th July 2022

As you will of course be aware, the school is closed today so I write to provide further information. As you know, the school is currently undergoing roofing works. This is a twelve-week programme of critical works, in order to ensure that the school is wind and watertight. As such, work had to proceed at the end of June in order that it is completed by the start of the new academic year.

Unfortunately, this morning at approximately 7am, while carrying out some of these roofing works, smoke permeated through the roof void above one Year 3 classroom which activated the school's fire alarm and the fire brigade was in attendance. Our Premises Manager was on site to help manage the situation before the arrival of staff.

I understand that there is an update on the London Fire Brigade website but this is factually incorrect. The Trust CEO is addressing this with the London Fire Brigade's Media Team as this reporting is incorrect and unhelpful, potentially causing distress to our community. A roof has not been destroyed and in fact there is minimal damage. I am pleased to report that there has been no damage to the classrooms, to children's work or belongings etc. In particular, no hoses were used in the classrooms at all. There is a residual smell of smoke from the roof void above and some of the ceiling tiles have been removed in the Year 3 classrooms and in the two Year 4 classrooms, as part of the health and safety checks and in order to vent the area. Investigations were able to be completed swiftly due to the scale of the incident. Four fire engines were indeed in attendance due to this being a large school site.

Please be assured that as a school and a Trust, we have followed all the relevant procedures and protocols for health and safety. As a result of today's incident, caused by an individual sub-contractor, we have a new team of roofers on site and have increased the management, monitoring and inspection site visits to daily. An onsite foreman will ensure that all works are compliant with the design, method statements and risk assessments in place.

As a result of this issue, we are unable to open the school today because our fire alarm systems, gas, electricity and internet connection and server were all disconnected. All these services are



Harbury Road Carshalton Surrey SM5 4LA

Telephone 020 8643 4428
office@barrowhedges.com



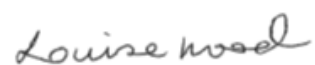
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being reinstated today in order to re-open the school and be fully functional on Monday. Everything planned for next week will run as scheduled.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise wood".

Mrs Louise Wood
Headteacher